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VETERANS' HOME PURCHASE BOARD OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

MEMBERS OF BOARD SAM FORBERT, JR - Meridian CLIFTON MARSHALL - Hattiesburg ROY SAWYER - Sardis

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STERLING O. KNIGHT

FINANCIAL AUDIT FINDINGS

September 29, 2003

Phil Bryant, State Auditor Office of the State Auditor State of Mississippi P.O. Box 956 Jackson, MS 39205-0956

Dear Mr. Bryant:

The management and members of the Board of Directors of the Veterans' Home Purchase Board wish to express our appreciation for the thoroughness and professionalism displayed by your staff and that of Breazeale, Saunders and O'Neil, the CPA firm, conducting our audit.

AUDIT FINDINGS

<u>Independent Auditors' Finding and Recommendation With Respect To Internal Control</u> Staff Size and Segregation of Duties

We concur with your recommendation that our segregation of duties could be improved with a larger office/accounting staff. We do feel our control environment and our monitoring of this environment mitigate this lack of staff. Management and the Board do and will continue to ensure the employees have a thorough understanding of the organizational structure, including how authority and responsibility are assigned. Management and the Board also ensure and will continue to ensure that its philosophy and operating style are communicated in writing to employees with emphasis on the importance of integrity and ethical values.

Director of Accounting

and Finance